

## **Tree of Life Lutheran Church**

Congregational Meeting

January 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by President Dennis McConnell. A quorum was established. Sign-in sheets are attached. Rev. Chris Lake led us in prayer.

A motion was made by Larry Klotz to accept the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Maxine McConnell and the motion carried.

Dick Mong made a motion to approve minutes from the Congregational Meeting in January, 2015. The motion was seconded by Alyce Devore and carried. Dick Mong made a motion to approve the minutes from the special called Congregational Meeting on April 26, 2015. The motion was seconded by Chuck Will and carried.

Outgoing Council members: Linda Bliese and Vickie Funderburk were recognized for their service.

A motion was made by Phil Anderson to accept the nominations for church council positions; Susan Blough for recording secretary and Heidi Beckham (current council member) for financial secretary serving a 3 year term. With no other motions made, Maxine McConnell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

President Dennis McConnell gave an update on activity at Tree of Life. Full details are in the attached PowerPoint presentation. Highlights include 39 new members, 44 youth and adults to camp, 19 youth and adults on the mission trip, expanding our adult education classes, increase in worship attendance. Facility updates include restoration of the bathrooms and adding a new bathroom including a shower in the Fellowship Hall.

President Dennis McConnell and Pastor Chris Lake gave an update on the Seeds for Growth. Donations are right on schedule with pledges. Seeds money was used for donations to Family Promise and Water to Thrive, updates and addition of bathrooms and mortgage. Questions were raised in regards to using money for mortgage payments and it was clarified that it is a loan and will be paid back when the money is available.

Larry Anderson gave the financial report for 2015. A copy of the report is added to these minutes. Pledge offering was over by \$28,000 than actual pledges at the end of the year. We still ended with a \$76,000 deficit. \$56,000 came from seeds money and the remainder came from the money left from last year's giving. The deficit included \$10,000 the congregation voted to give to Pastor

Chris Lake for medical expenses and staff Christmas gifts. These two items were not part of the budget.

He then presented the 2016 budget. Council went over the budget line by line and trimmed where ever was possible to get the expenses below the income but we still have a deficit of \$46,690.69. We have added Ryan Dockery to the medical insurance since he can no longer be covered on his father's insurance. Bunny Stoutes also asked for medical insurance for her family. Both these items are part of the deficit. He stated that we have a lot of great things going on here at Tree of Life and any more cuts would affect our ministry. He also commented that we had 3% raises for the staff and did remove it when trimming the expenses. Jim Rust asked if we have a budget for seeds money. Pastor Chris said we did not have one at this time. He also stated we did not want to tie ourselves down with uncertainty of the economy. Jim Rust made a point that we had a list of what seeds money was going to be used for and he feels we should still have a list even though we might not do it. Dennis McConnell wanted to make sure the congregation knew that for every \$50,000 received in Seeds contributions we would give to the ministries we had listed. A long time member of Tree of Life, Annette Chapman gave a nice speech about our situation. She reminded us that we have been in this situation before and we will get through it. We all need to continue to have faith. It brought a warm response from the congregation. Pastor Chris stated a big part of our ministry is about growing and it attracts new members. There being no more questions, Larry Finke made a motion to approve the 2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Treva Allen and the motion carried.

There were no reports from the tellers and no new business.

Closing prayer was led by Rev. Chris Lake.

With there being no further business a motion was made by George Timmons and seconded by Larry Klotz to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:15 a.m.

Dennis McConnell, President

Vickie Funderburk, Secretary

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